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DEVELOPMENT OF USSR ECONOMIC MINISTRIES, 1917 - 1952

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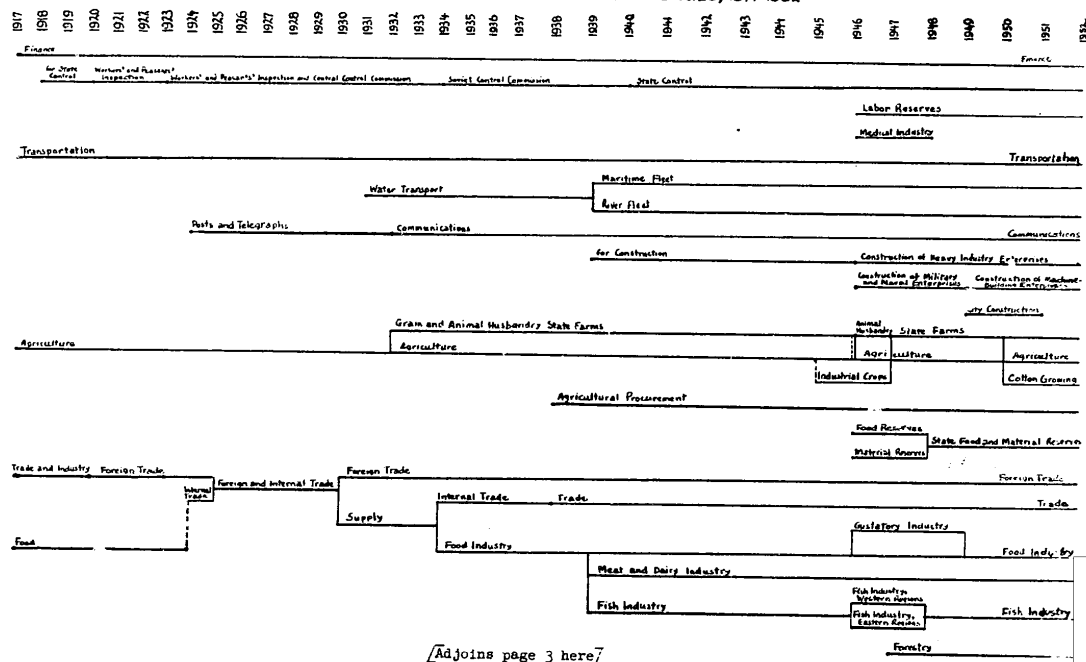
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DEVELOPMENT OF USSR ECONOMIC MINISTRIES, 1917 - 1952

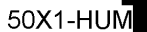
This publication consists of two parts: a chart showing the development of USSR economic ministries from 1917 to 1952, and a chronological outline of major legislation affecting development of USSR economic ministries, since 1917.

On the chart which follows, branched lines and dots indicate major changes; broken lines indicate relationships implicit, but not specifically stated, in the decrees and ukases.

DEVELOPMENT OF USSR ECONOMIC MINISTRIES, 1917-1952



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MAJOR LEGISLATION AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT
OF USSR ECONOMIC MINISTRIES, 1917 - 1952

A chronological listing of all major changes in the development of all-union and union-republic people's commissariats (ministries) of the USSR from 1917 to 1952 follows.

Prior to 1936, these changes were effected chiefly on the basis of decrees (postanovleniye) of the Central Executive Committee USSR, or of the RSFSR government before 30 December 1922. Decrees of the Central Executive Committee were often issued jointly with the Council of People's Commissars USSR.

Since the enactment of the Stalin Constitution, 5 December 1936, most basic legislation affecting the establishment, abolition, or reorganization of all-union, union-republic, and sometimes republic people's commissariats (ministries) has been in the form of ukases (ukaz) of the Presidium, Supreme Soviet USSR, which become effective as soon as they are issued, and which must be submitted for confirmation to the Supreme Soviet USSR. This particular type of ukase becomes law (zakon) upon confirmation and constitutes an amendment to Article 77 or 78 of the Constitution. These laws and ukases, which are legislative in nature, are put into operation by means of decrees (postanovleniye) and regulations (rasporiyazheniye) of the Council of People's Commissars (Ministers) USSR, which are executive in nature, and which determine the internal organization and activities of the ministries.

Individual USSR ministers are appointed and relieved by ukase of the Presidium (between sessions of the Supreme Soviet USSR), on the recommendation of the chairman of the Council of Ministers USSR. Such personnel actions must be submitted to the Supreme Soviet for confirmation, but do not become law.

The following list includes all major changes in the economic people's commissariats and ministries in existence since 1917, with special emphasis on their development since 1939. Beginning with 1939, the titles of all ukases concerning establishment, abolition, or reorganization are listed in chronological order.

The day and month of the decrees and ukases are listed in the left column; when the day is not known, only the month is given; when neither is known, the column is left blank.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

1917

- 28 Oct -- People's Commissariat of Finance established.(1)
- 9 Nov -- People's Commissariat of Food established.(2)
- 18 Dec -- Supreme Council of National Economy (VSNKh) established.(3)
 - People's Commissariat of Agriculture established in early days after Revolution.(4)
 - People's Commissariat of Transportation established.(5)
 - People's Commissariat of Trade and Industry established.(6)

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1918

- 23 Jan -- People's Commissariat for State Control established, Workers' Control having been established 14 November 1917.(7)

1920

- 7 Feb -- People's Commissariat of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection (RKI) established by organization of People's Commissariat for State Control.(7)
11 Jun -- People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade established by decree of RSFSR government by reorganizing and renaming of People's Commissariat of Trade and Industry.(8)

1923

- Apr -- People's Commissariat of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection combined with Central Control Commission; called TsKK-RKI.(7)
12 Nov -- People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade USSR established.(8)

1924

- 31 Jan -- People's Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs listed in 1924 USSR Constitution (9); probably established prior to that date.
9 May -- People's Commissariat of Internal Trade established by reorganizing Commission for Internal Trade under Council of Labor and Defense; the commission had been established 17 July 1923.(10) People's Commissariat of Food Industry abolished.(2)

1925

- 18 Nov -- People's Commissariat of Foreign and Internal Trade established by unification of People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade and People's Commissariat of Internal Trade.(10)

1930

- 22 Nov -- People's Commissariat of Foreign and Internal Trade subdivided into independent People's Commissariat of Supply and People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade.(10)

1931

- People's Commissariat of Water Transport established.(11)

1932

- 5 Jan -- VSNKh reorganized into People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry, People's Commissariat of Light Industry, and People's Commissariat of the Timber Industry.(12)

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- 1 Oct -- People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms separated from People's Commissariat of Agriculture.(13)
- People's Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs renamed People's Commissariat of Communications.(9)

1934

- Feb -- People's Commissariat of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection abolished; Central Control Commission reorganized into Party Control Commission under TsK VKP(b); Soviet Control Commission (KSK) established under Council of People's Commissars USSR on the basis of the Commission of Execution and People's Commissariat of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection.(7)
- 29 Jul -- People's Commissariat of Supply divided into People's Commissariat of Food Industry and People's Commissariat of Internal Trade.(10)

1936

- 5 Dec -- People's Commissariat of Defense Industry separated from People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry.(14)

1937

- 22 Aug -- All-Union People's Commissariat of Machine Building separated from People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry.(15)

1938

- 15 Jan -- All-Union People's Commissariat of Agricultural Procurement established on basis of Committee for Procurement of Agricultural Products under Council of People's Commissars USSR; the latter committee was established 13 February 1932 under Council of Labor and Defense and was reorganized 13 February 1934 under Council of People's Commissars USSR.(4)
- 15 Jan -- People's Commissariat of Internal Trade renamed People's Commissariat of Trade.(10)

1939

- 2 Jan -- Union-Republic People's Commissariat of the Textile Industry USSR established by ukase of Presidium, Supreme Soviet USSR, "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Light Industry USSR."(16)
- 11 Jan -- People's Commissariats of Aviation Industry USSR, Shipbuilding Industry USSR, Munitions USSR, and Armaments USSR established by ukase of Presidium "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Defense Industry USSR."(17)
- 19 Jan -- People's Commissariats of the Fish Industry, Meat and Dairy Industry, and Food Industry USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Food Industry USSR."(18)

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- 24 Jan -- People's Commissariats of Fuel Industry USSR, Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry USSR, Ferrous Metallurgy USSR, Nonferrous Metallurgy USSR, Chemical Industry USSR, and Construction Materials Industry USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry USSR." (19)
- 5 Feb -- People's Commissariats of Heavy Machine Building USSR, Medium Machine Building USSR, and General Machine Building USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Machine Building USSR." (20)
- 9 Apr -- People's Commissariats of Maritime Fleet USSR and River Fleet USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Water Transport USSR." (21)
- 29 May -- Law "On Establishment of All-Union People's Commissariat for Construction." (22)
- 12 Oct -- People's Commissariats of Coal Industry USSR and Petroleum Industry USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of Fuel Industry USSR." (23)

1940

- 17 Apr -- Ukases "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of the Electrical Industry USSR" and "On Reorganization of People's Commissariat of Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry USSR Into People's Commissariat of Electric Power Stations USSR." (24)
- 27 Apr -- Ukases "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of the Cellulose and Paper Industry USSR" and "On Reorganization of People's Commissariat of the Timber Industry USSR" (in connection with formation of People's Commissariat of the Cellulose and Paper Industry USSR). (25)
- 6 Sep -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of State Control USSR." (26)

1941

- 28 Mar -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of the Rubber Industry USSR." (27)
- 5 Jun -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of Machine-Tool Building USSR." (28)
- 26 Nov -- People's Commissariat of Mortar Armament established by ukase "On Reorganization of People's Commissariat of General Machine Building Into People's Commissariat of Mortar Armament." (29)
- All-Union People's Commissariat of Tank Industry established (30);
/on basis of tank plants of People's Commissariat of Medium Machine Building/. /No ukase establishing People's Commissariat of the Tank Industry was published; it was probably set up in December./

1945

- 14 Oct -- Ukase "On Establishment of All-Union People's Commissariat of Transport Machine Building" (People's Commissariat of Tank Industry abolished and its enterprises transferred to new commissariat, which also took over locomotive plants of People's Commissariat of Heavy Machine Building and railroad-car plants of People's Commissariat of Medium Machine Building). (31)

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11 Nov -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of Industrial Crops USSR."(32)

1946

7 Jan -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat of Agricultural Machine Building" (on basis of abolished People's Commissariat of Munitions and its enterprises, tractor plants of People's Commissariats of Medium Machine Building and Transport Machine Building, and agricultural machine building plants of People's Commissariat of Mortar Armament).(33)

19 Jan -- Ukase "On Organization of People's Commissariat for Construction of Military and Naval Enterprises" (on basis of abolished Main Administration of Military Industrial Construction under Council of People's Commissars USSR, and construction organizations of People's Commissariats for Construction and of Internal Affairs USSR).(34)

19 Jan -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat for Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises" (on basis of abolished People's Commissariat for Construction, its organizations and enterprises, and construction organizations and enterprises of People's Commissariats of Ferrous Metallurgy and of Internal Affairs USSR).(34)

19 Jan -- Ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry Into Two People's Commissariats -- People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry of the Western Regions USSR and People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry of the Eastern Regions USSR."(34)

28 Jan -- Ukase "On Establishment of People's Commissariat for Construction of Fuel Enterprises" (on basis of construction organizations of People's Commissariats of Coal Industry, Petroleum Industry, and for Construction, People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs USSR, and Main Administration of Synthetic Liquid Fuel and Gas [Glavgaztoprom] under Council of People's Commissars USSR).(35)

17 Feb -- Ukase "On Reorganization of People's Commissariat of Medium Machine Building Into People's Commissariat of the Automobile Industry."(36)

17 Feb -- Ukase "On Reorganization of People's Commissariat of Mortar Armament Into People's Commissariat of Machine and Instrument Building."(36)

17 Feb -- Ukase "On Establishment of All-Union People's Commissariat of Construction- and Road-Machine Building."(36)

4 Mar -- Ukase "On Subdivision of People's Commissariat of the Petroleum Industry Into Two People's Commissariats -- People's Commissariat of the Petroleum Industry of the Southern and Western Regions USSR and People's Commissariat of the Petroleum Industry of the Eastern Regions USSR."(37)

15 Mar -- Law "On Reorganization of Council of People's Commissars USSR Into Council of Ministers USSR and Councils of People's Commissars of Union and Autonomous Republics Into Councils of Ministers of Union and Autonomous Republics."(38)

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- 26 Mar -- Ukase "On Subdivision of Ministry of Agriculture USSR Into Two Ministries -- Ministry of Agriculture USSR and Ministry of Animal Husbandry USSR" (grain sovkhozes and animal husbandry sovkhozes of former People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms transferred to Ministry of Agriculture USSR and Ministry of Animal Husbandry USSR, respectively).(39) [Note: Abolition of People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms was not specifically provided for in any ukase. Supreme Soviet USSR amended Constitution on 14 March 1946 to provide for 49 people's commissariats, including Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms (40); on 19 March 1946 Supreme Soviet USSR approved new Council of Ministers and new list of ministries, which was same as 14 March list, except for omission of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms.(41)]
- 4 May -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of Food Reserves USSR."(42)
- 4 May -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of Material Reserves USSR."(42)
- 8 May -- Ukase "On Subdivision of Ministry of the Fish Industry USSR Into Two Ministries -- Ministry of the Fish Industry of the Eastern Regions USSR and Ministry of the Fish Industry of the Western Regions USSR."(43)
- 15 May -- Ukase "On Reorganization of Main Administration of Labor Reserves and Committee for Accounting and Distribution of the Labor Force Into Ministry of Labor Reserves."(44)
- 14 Jun -- Ukase "On Reorganization of Committee for Affairs of Geology Into Ministry of Geology USSR."(45)
- 14 Jun -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of the Medical Industry USSR" (on basis of enterprises of chemiopharmaceutical, medical instruments, and prosthetics industries of Ministries of Health of USSR and union republics and Ministries of Social Security of union republics).(45)
- 28 Jun -- Ukase "On Subdivision of Ministry of Electrical Industry Into Two Ministries -- Ministry of Communications Equipment Industry and Ministry of Electrical Industry."(46)
- 15 Jul -- Ukase "On Organization of Ministry of Gustatory Industry USSR" (transferring to it certain enterprises, sovkhozes, and organizations from Ministry of Food Industry USSR, plus Main Administration of Sulfite-Alcohol and Hydrolysis Industry Under Council of Ministers USSR with all its enterprises and organizations).(47)

1947

- 4 Feb -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of Agriculture (Zemledeliye), Ministry of Industrial Crops, and Ministry of Animal Husbandry Into Ministry of Agriculture (Sel'skoye khozyaystvo) USSR."(48)
- 4 Feb -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of State Farms USSR."(48)
- 4 Apr -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of Forestry USSR."(49)
- 23 Aug -- Ukase "On Reorganization of Ministry of the Automobile Industry Into Ministry of the Automobile and Tractor Industry."(49)

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1948

[Note: All changes listed for 1948 are from source 50.]

- 1 Mar -- Ukase "On Abolition of Ministry of the Medical Industry USSR."
- 23 Jul -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of Material Reserves and Ministry of Food Reserves Into All-Union Ministry of State Food and Material Reserves."
- 29 Jul -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of Timber Industry and Ministry of Cellulose and Paper Industry Into Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry USSR."
- 29 Jul -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of Metallurgical Industry USSR" [unifying Ministries of Ferrous Metallurgy and Nonferrous Metallurgy].
- 2 Aug -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of the Chemical Industry and Ministry of the Rubber Industry Into Ministry of the Chemical Industry USSR."
- 28 Dec -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of Light Industry USSR and Ministry of the Textile Industry USSR Into Ministry of Light Industry USSR."
- 28 Dec -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of the Petroleum Industry of the Southern and Western Regions, Ministry of the Petroleum Industry of the Eastern Regions, Main Administration of Synthetic Liquid Fuel and Gas (Glavgaztopprom) and Main Administration for Construction of the Gas and Petroleum Industry (Glavneftegazstroy) under Council of Ministers USSR, and Main Administration for Supply of Petroleum Products to the National Economy (Glavneftesnab) under State Committee of Council of Ministers USSR for Material and Technical Supply to the National Economy (Gossnab USSR), Into Ministry of the Petroleum Industry USSR."
- 28 Dec -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of the Fish Industry of the Eastern Regions USSR and Ministry of the Fish Industry of the Western Regions USSR Into the Ministry of the Fish Industry USSR."
- 28 Dec -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of the Coal Industry of the Western Regions, Ministry of the Coal Industry of the Eastern Regions, and Ministry of Construction of Fuel Enterprises Into Ministry of the Coal Industry."

1949

- 20 Jan -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of the Food Industry USSR and Ministry of the Gustatory Industry USSR Into Ministry of the Food Industry USSR." (50)
- 9 Mar -- Ukase "On Unification of Ministry of Construction of Military and Naval Enterprises and Main Administration for Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises (Glavmashstroy) Under Council of Ministers USSR Into Ministry of Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises." (50)
- 1 Jun -- Ukase "On Establishment of All-Union Ministry of City Construction." (51)

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1950

- 5 Apr -- Ukase "On Establishment of Ministry of Cotton Growing USSR" (51)
(to take over all enterprises, organizations, and institutions concerned with cotton production from Ministry of Agriculture USSR, Ministry of State Farms USSR, and Ministry of Light Industry USSR).(52)
- 28 Apr -- Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy USSR and Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry USSR Into Two Ministries." (53, 54)

1951

- 16 Feb -- Ministry of the Paper and Wood-Processing Industry USSR and Ministry of the Timber Industry USSR established by ukase "On Subdivision of Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry USSR." (54)
- 14 Mar -- Ukase "On Abolition of Ministry of City Construction USSR" (in connection with establishment of State Committee of Council of Ministers USSR for Construction Affairs) (55); the latter was established by 9 May 1950 ukase "On Establishment of the State Committee of Council of Ministers USSR for Construction Affairs." (51)

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- 49. Ibid., No 6, 1948 (Law of 4 Feb 1948)
- 50. Pravda, 16 Mar 1949 (Law of 14 Mar 1949)
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- 52. Ibid., No 13, 1950
- 53. Ibid., No 1, 1951
- 54. Ibid., No 5, 1951 (Law of 10 Mar 1951)
- 55. Ibid., No 8, 1951

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